

CITY OF EL MONTE

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION
POLICE DEPARTMENT
FEBRUARY 6, 2019

TO: DAVID REYNOSO, CHIEF OF POLICE

FROM: CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS, CAPTAIN

**SUBJECT: PROGRAM ADJUSTMENT: ASSET FORFEITURE REMAINING FUNDS
BURGLARY PREVENTION REWARD PROGRAM FROM ILLEGAL
FIREWORKS REWARD PROGRAM**

RECOMMENDATION

Convert the remaining funds approved from the memorandum dated May 21, 2015, Illegal Fireworks Reward Program, to Burglary Prevention Reward Program. The remaining proceeds are stored on \$ 50.00 gift cards and in the custody of the Administrative Services Captain. The remaining Gift Cards total \$ 1,950.00. There is also a cash balance of \$ 27.25.

BACKGROUND

In 2015 the Police Department deployed funds to obtain the public's cooperation in suppressing illegal fireworks for the July 4, 2015, Holiday. Asset Forfeiture Funds from account #259-71-712-6266 in the amount of \$ 2,500.00 was approved by then City Manager, Raul Godinez, for a reward program to report illegal fireworks. During that time illegal fireworks activity had reached a high point and the public outreach campaign was used to communicate the safety issues of illegal fireworks.

El Monte has seen some success in this area, and continues to seek new ways to address the problem associated with illegal fireworks possession and usage. However, in the last three years only three (3) gift cards were issued. It is likely the incentive to report neighbors may have not resulted in claims to the program for gift cards.

Residential burglary and theft has seen an increase of activity after recent changes in the criminal justice system. Thefts from residences and burglaries to homes are a primary focus of our law enforcement efforts and we have experienced an increase in the number of home camera systems which provide evidence or clues to possible suspects. The Ring Neighborhood application has also provided a social media share platform of neighbors sharing videos of suspicious activity and criminal suspects, which we have used to alert patrol officers and identify suspects.

DISCUSSION

Residential crime related to theft and burglary remains a primary topic during neighborhood engagement meetings. The use of the Ring Door Bell cameras have provided not only intelligence about suspect's action and descriptions, but serves as a deterrent when suspect notices the Ring camera system. The El Monte Police Department will use the remaining Gift Cards, not used since 2015, under the Fireworks Reward Program, to purchase Ring Camera Door Bells for witnesses or reporting parties that provide suspect descriptions to burglaries to residential homes. The Cameras will be provided to one witness who provides information that describes the suspect of the crime and is not a generic description of only sex and race.

1. Any community member who has descriptive knowledge of a suspect seen committing a burglary to a residence in El Monte and reports the information to officers during the course of the initial investigation; who must provide their true name, address and phone number; and be willing to testify about their personal observation of the suspect's actions in court is eligible to receive a Ring Camera under this program.
2. When an officer confirms a witness has provided a description that would help in identifying a suspect, if located in the future, the officer will complete a police report with all information described and notify the Patrol Team sergeant of a witness who meets the above criteria.
3. The Patrol Team Sergeant will review the report and ensure the information is complete to include the witnesses' information and description beyond the listing of sex and race. The Sergeant will notify the on duty Watch Commander and Patrol Captain of a witness that is eligible to a Ring Door Bell Camera. Patrol Captain will notify the Administrative Services Captain via email of the eligible witness and corresponding case number. Whenever possible, the Ring Door Bell Camera will be presented to witness within two work days.
4. For audit purposes, a log will be kept by the Administrative Services Captain to document the incident and reference the arrest and report number.

The success of the Program will rest in part with how the Police Department communicates this program of officers who will seek out witnesses. Social media outreach will be used to highlight success of the program, without identifying the cooperating witnesses.

FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact, only gift cards not used from the 2015 Firework Reward Program will be used and at this time we have \$ 1,950.00 in gift cards and \$ 27.25, in cash.

Approved _____
David Reynoso, Chief of Police

Date